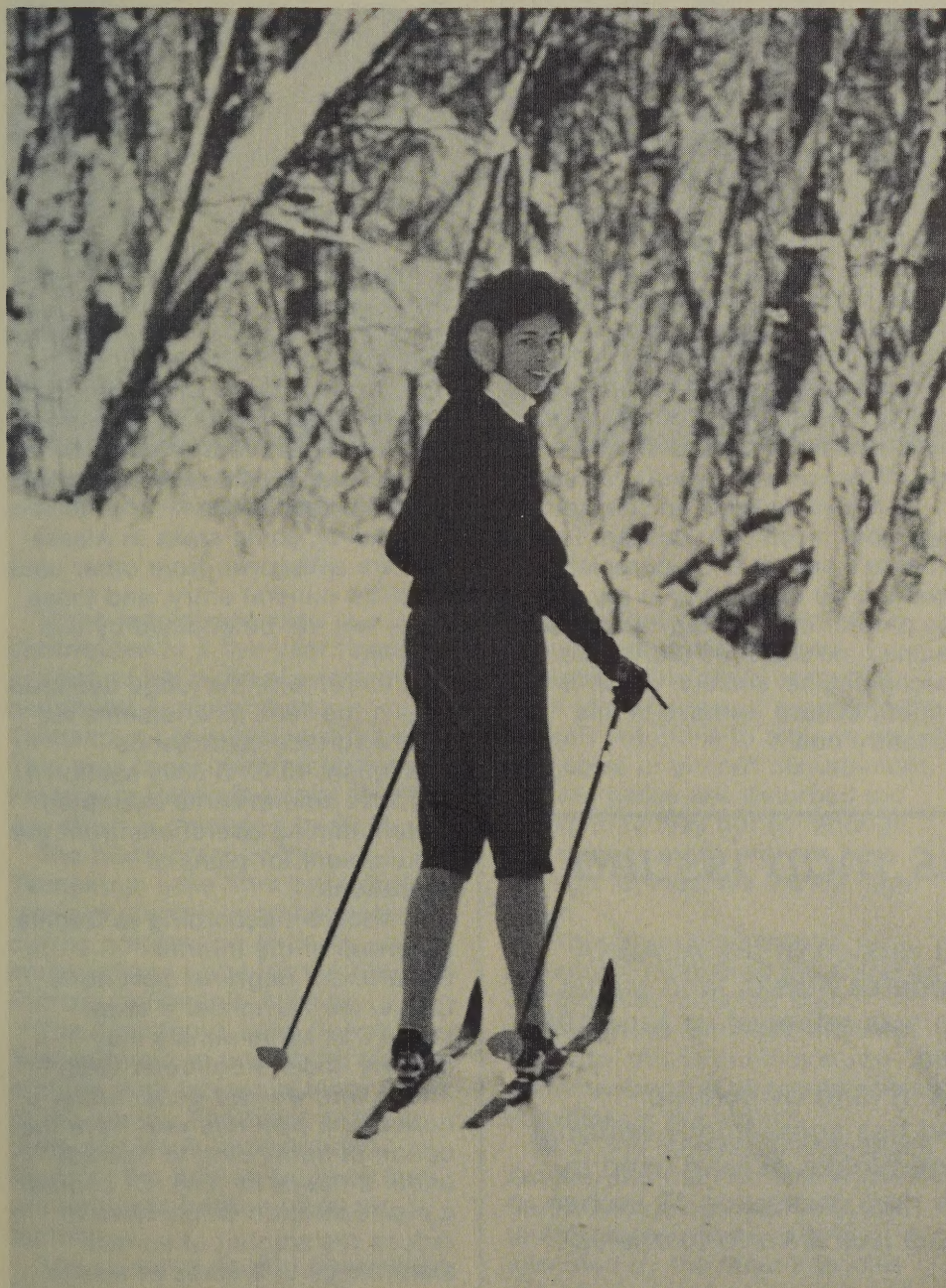




blm - alaska

frontiers

Issue 8 January 1988



Jan Sosnowski heads out on a fresh trail near BLM's office on the Campbell Tract. These secluded trails wind through woods, cross over streams and snake along rolling hills into the Chugach foothills. And it's all right in the middle of Anchorage.

Enjoy in-town outings

—on Campbell Tract

Deep in the heart of Anchorage lies a quiet retreat of birches, cottonwood and spruce trees blanketed with snow. Ski trails wind through forests where chickadees and ravens make the loudest noises. Beyond the trees, Flattop Mountain catches a pink glow from the low afternoon sunlight. Winter has come to the Campbell Tract.

Managed by the Bureau of Land Management for the past 25 years, the Campbell Tract is 730 acres of undeveloped public land near the foothills of the Chugach Mountains. Originally the tract contained 5,000 acres and was part of the Fort Richardson military reservation. But now most of the land has been transferred to the municipality of Anchorage as part of the Far North Bicentennial Park.

On its adjacent administrative site, the BLM operates an office complex, an airstrip and communications facilities. However, it is the recreational opportunities which attract a growing number of visitors.

The Campbell Tract is a place where the public can come and enjoy the solitude and beauty of nature in the heart of the city.

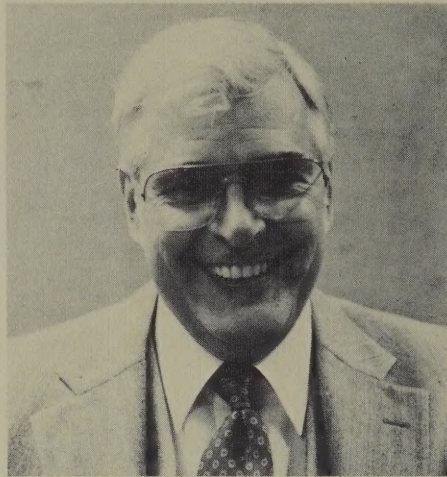
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Santora named chief of minerals

John Santora has been named BLM deputy state director for minerals. No stranger to Alaska, he previously worked in BLM's state and Fairbanks district offices from 1971 to 1983.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish in his new job, Santora said, "I'd like to play a role in assisting with the development of Alaska's natural resources by helping to bring people of competing viewpoints to a sensible middle ground."

Santora, a mining engineer, received an M.S. from the Colorado School of Mines, then worked for the Bureau of Reclamation before being hired as BLM's Fairbanks district engineer in 1971. He then successively became chief of the branch of engineering, area project engineer for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System project, and project manager for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. In 1983 he moved to Washington, D.C., to attend the Interior Department's managerial development program,



John Santora

and later became BLM assistant district manager in Ukiah, California.

About being in Anchorage, he said, "It feels like home — Alaska is home," said Santora. "My children all live in Fairbanks."

Santora believes Alaska is at a point in history where the potential for its mineral resources will play a vital role in ensuring the economic and national security of the country.

At the same time, he stressed, "I consider myself an Alaskan. I see Alaska's beauty and appreciate it. I want to do everything in my power to protect that heritage and at the same time equip us to live in a technological society, which is what I believe we have in this country now."

—JGM

New land status map issued

BLM has just released a revised version of the ALASKA LAND STATUS MAP. The map updates Alaska land status as of May 1987. The previous edition was released in June 1986, and copies were quickly exhausted.

The new edition shows changes in land ownership occurring during the past year and has some minor editorial changes. It also identifies two large blocks of land used by the military. The 1:2,500,000-scale map measures 48 inches wide by 34 inches high. Land status is shown to township resolution.

Maps can be purchased over the counter or by mail for \$5 from the BLM Public Room, First Floor, Anchorage Federal Building, 701 C street, Box 13, Anchorage AK 99513. Telephone (907) 271-5960.

—EB

New orders issued in placer mining suit

In the suit by the Sierra Club over BLM's management of placer mining operations, the U.S. District Court issued further orders November 6 and 12. The effect of most of the orders depends on the status of the land.

One effect is that plans of operation are now required in (1) areas where the land has been withdrawn from operation of the mining laws and (2) areas where only limited use of off-road vehicles is allowed. Judge von der Heydt ordered that, as of November 15, 1988, all notice-level operations on lands withdrawn from mineral entry within the State of Alaska, as well as those within the four watersheds affected by the lawsuit, will be required to file a plan of operations.

However, some areas in Alaska that are withdrawn from other uses do allow mineral entry, and those areas will not be affected by the orders.

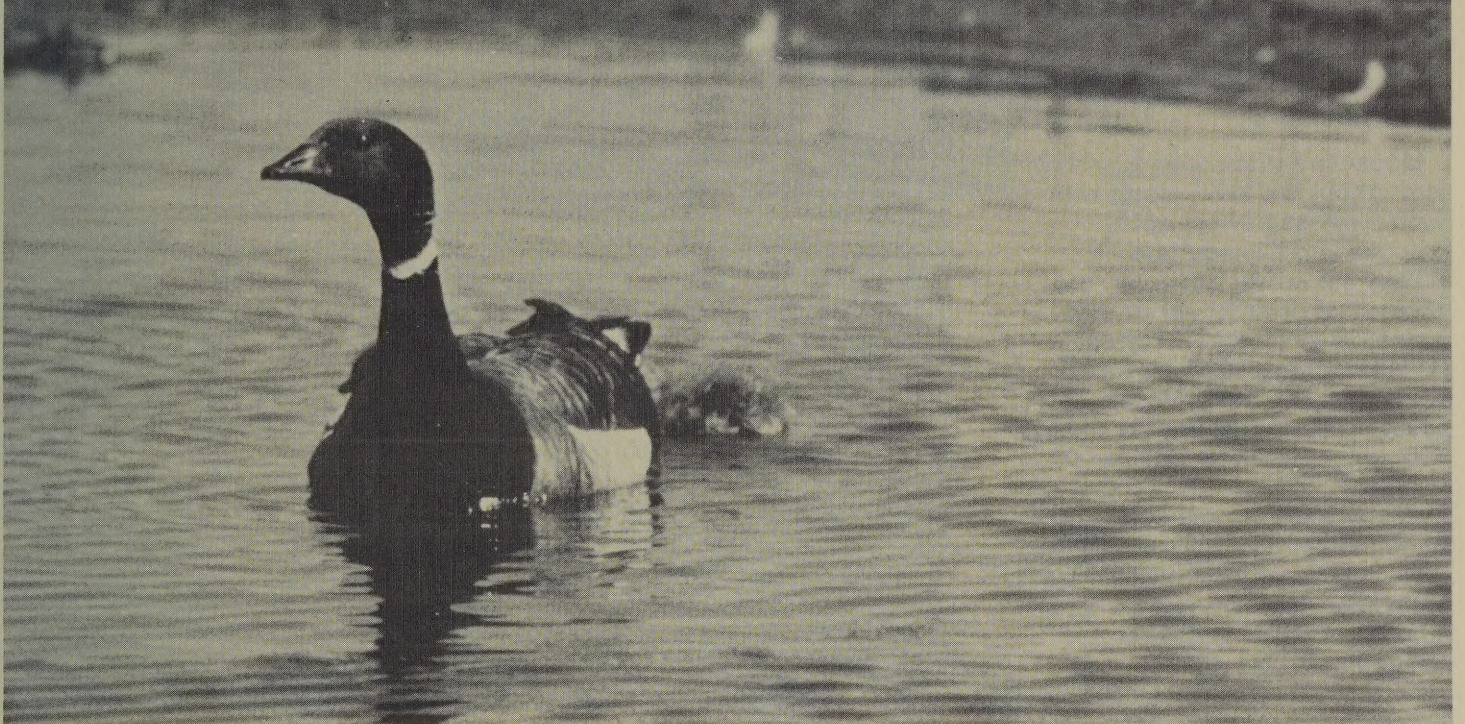
In the orders, the judge declared invalid the 1983 amendments to BLM's surface-disturbance regulation, 43 CFR 3809 section 1-4. Those amendments exempted certain mining operations from the requirement for plans of operations.

In addition, according to Dennis Hopewell of the Interior Department Regional Solicitor's Office, the November 6 order states that some miners may operate under a notice in 1988. Those who worked under either a notice or a plan this year have the option of continuing to operate under a notice in 1988. Of course, a plan operation would have to reduce the amount of surface disturbance to 5 acres or less to qualify as a notice operation.

BLM is working with the regional solicitor's office to evaluate the full implications of the orders. We'll keep you posted in FRONTIERS.

—JGM

Agencies join in black brant studies



Black brant at Teshekpuk Lake on the North Slope of Alaska. The waterfowl congregate for molting in this area where food is plentiful and there are few predators.

Three federal agencies contributed to a five-year research project on black brant geese that began last summer in the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area. This area lies within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), which is managed by BLM.

The black brant of the Teshekpuk Lake area became the focus of environmental concerns during preparation of BLM management plans for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

The Teshekpuk Lake Special Area is home to one of the largest molting populations of black brant in the world. The brant arrive in June and leave in September. Much of the time in between they are flightless because they are molting.

The research project deals with human impacts, specifically aircraft overflights, during that flightless period when the geese are very sensitive to disturbance.

While in the Teshekpuk area, the geese are trying to put on fat

reserves that will be used to supply energy during their migration. The study team has been identifying and recording the geese's reactions to altitude, speed and noise of aircraft disturbances.

If the geese are disturbed too much, they may not eat enough and consequently will not have enough fat reserves for the flight south.

Although scientists have previously monitored the activities of the geese, counted their numbers and identified the lakes they use, this is the first study documenting the effects of human activities on the brant.

BLM, the Minerals Management Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service are providing funds and technical assistance. Money allocated by the three agencies will be used to support Fish and Wildlife personnel conducting the study. The Fish and Wildlife Service research center in Anchorage will produce the final report of the study, subject to final

approval by all three agencies.

The original idea for the study came from BLM's Teshekpuk Lake Special Area Habitat Management Plan Evaluation, completed by BLM Arctic District staff in 1986.

The Teshekpuk Lake Special Area was designated in 1977. The petroleum reserve was set aside by Executive Order in 1923 to be explored and developed to provide petroleum for the United States.

The black brant are subject to subsistence hunting by nearby villagers in Alaska as well as sport hunting in Canada, the Lower 48, Mexico and South America. Any impact on the black brant in the Teshekpuk area would have reverberations throughout the United States and in countries along the birds migratory path.

The data collected from this study will aid land and resource managers in decisions about development in the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area. Arctic District staff anticipate the study will continue for five years.

—SDW

BLM's woodsy retreat

continued from p.1

Moose are often seen throughout the year, along with such birds as hawks, owls, redpolls and Canada jays.

With the arrival of winter, the occasional grizzly bear or sow is now snug in its den. Cross-country skiers and dog mushers have taken over the trails. Moose, coyotes, and hares are the most frequently observed wildlife species.

"Many trails are marked with signs indicating appropriate uses," says BLM recreation planner Dean Littlepage. "But there are a number of unmarked trails."

Dog mushing trails are maintained by the Alaska Sled Dog and Racing Association. These trails are open to all dog mushers. Some of these trails are used for the annual Fur Rendezvous Sled Dog Race.

Cross country ski trails are not as extensive as the dog mushing trails (see trails shown on the map). Cross-country skiing and dog mushing is restricted to designated trails. No skiing, mushing or jogging, etc., is allowed on the airstrip.

The snow offers an opportunity to do some amateur wildlife tracking. Rabbits, tiny shrews and other furbearers often leave delicate prints close to the trails.

In the summertime, the few visitors to Campbell Tract are usually found on the hiking trails. When not jogging or hiking, they can observe many kinds of wildlife. This is the best time to see small animals such as squirrels, rabbits, porcupines and even coyotes.

Horseback riding is permitted on some trails from May 15 to October 31.

Surrounded by municipal parkland on the north, east, and south, the Campbell Tract is managed so activities are compatible with those of the Far North Bicentennial Park plan.



Mushers bunch up near Campbell airstrip during the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous World Championship. The course runs through BLM-managed Campbell Tract. Mushers use the trails all winter for the annual Fur Rendezvous Sled Dog Race. Campbell Tract connect with trails on municipal land.

ACCESS The recommended way to get to the Campbell Tract is to take the Campbell Airstrip Road south from Tudor Road one mile to a parking area near Campbell Creek. A trailhead on municipal land off Abbott Loop Road near 80th Street also provides access. Trails from the Service-Hillside Park trail network also connect with the trails on the BLM land.

Visitors also may park their vehicles outside the gate on the entrance road to the BLM office at Abbott Loop and 68th Street and walk to the trailhead 200 feet inside the gate.

NATURAL FEATURES The area's greatest appeal may be its natural vegetation. The land varies from gently rolling hills to thickly vegetated spruce bogs. Being able to enjoy a semi-wilderness experience inside the city is one of the reasons why Alaska is such a special place.

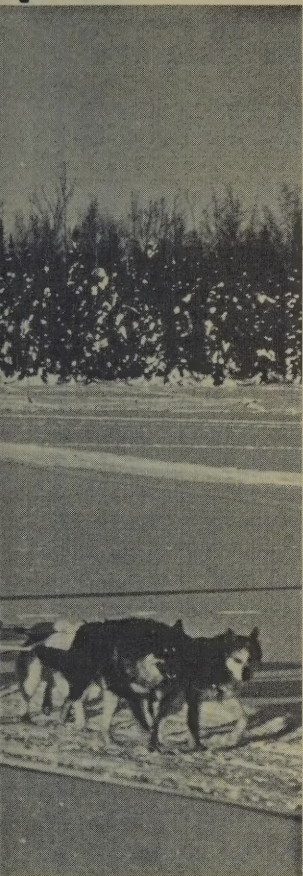
PROHIBITED Off-road vehicles, including snowmachines, four-wheel-drive vehicles, motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, are prohibited, as well as:

- Skiing, mushing, jogging or walking on the airstrip
- Shooting or discharging firearms
- Archery
- Littering
- Overnight Camping
- Cutting or removing trees
- Campfires

INFORMATION Additional information about the Campbell Tract can be obtained from BLM outdoor recreation planner Dean Littlepage at 267-1232.

For information about trails and recreational opportunities on the Far North Bicentennial Park, contact the Municipal Parks and Recreation Department at 343-4335.

—DA/JGM

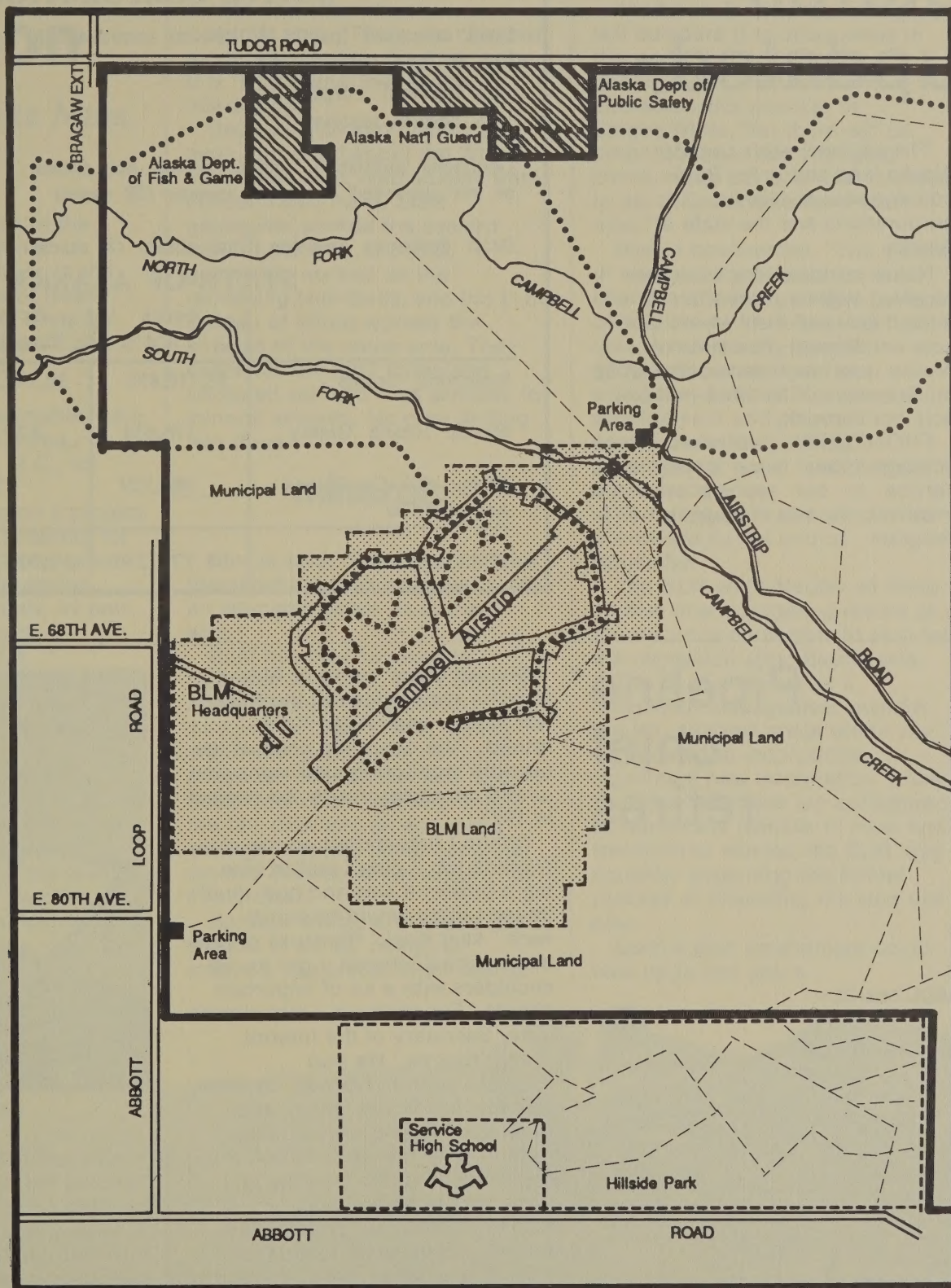


ionship dog races. The race
ing their dogs. Ski trails on

"The best places to enjoy the Campbell Tract are on the east side along the Campbell Airstrip Road. There is good access to the creek and to some nice trails."

—Dean Littlepage,
BLM outdoor recreation
specialist

Campbell Tract Trails



- | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------|
| | CAMPBELL TRACT-
BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT | | MUNICIPAL LAND |
| | STATE LAND | | DOG SLED TRAILS |
| | | | SKI TRAILS |

Land status updated

The adjacent table updates Alaska land status for BLM conveyances to Native corporations and the state of Alaska.

Native corporations have now received slightly more than 35 million acres of their 44-million-acre entitlement. The state of Alaska now has received almost 86 million acres of its 104.5-million-acre entitlement.

FRONTIERS publishes these acreage totals twice a year as a service to our readers who are involved in this important BLM program.

—EB

BLM Land Conveyance Progress Report September 30, 1987 NATIVE CORPORATIONS

Land conveyed (patent & interim conveyance) 35,135,561 acres
211 village corporations
12 regional corporations
5 former reserves

Decisions published, appeal period not ended, 180,130 acres
or not conveyed for other reasons (28 cases)

Draft decisions awaiting final action (8 cases) 28,082 acres

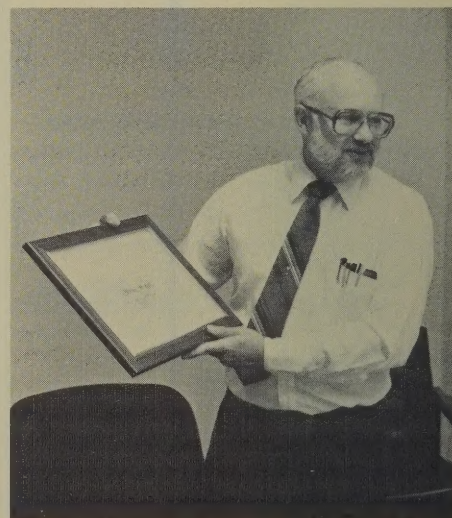
STATE OF ALASKA

	Acres TA'd	Acres Patented	Total Acres
Statehood Grants	53,710,878	30,189,748	83,900,625
Mental Health Grants	176,634	829,250	1,005,884
Terms and Conditions Act of 1976	882,729	5,661	888,390
TOTAL ACRES	54,770,241	31,024,659	85,794,900

Pipeline chief retires

Sixteen years' worth of Alaska pipeline knowledge left the BLM last month when Arlan Kohl retired. The departing chief of the pipeline monitoring staff signed on as EIS coordinator with the project in 1971.

"When I first started on the pipeline job, I didn't realize how big a project it was and how much interest there would be world-wide," said Kohl. "Because of that international interest, I got to rub shoulders with a lot of important people. For example, I met almost every Secretary of the Interior except Kleppe. We had delegations from Norway, Sweden, Canada, the Soviet Union, and Australia. People were coming from all over the world to see the construction of the pipeline and learn about construction techniques in the arctic. "The main concerns were related to caribou and large oil spills," said Kohl, who after countless trips up and down the pipeline corridor feels caribou migration patterns have been relatively unaffected by the line.



Arlan Kohl

As a testimony to how well he handled the delicate job of policing activities on the pipeline, Kohl was recently feted at an informal luncheon by some of his peers at Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. He was presented with an official Alyeska jacket.

Kohl plans to build a house and pursue hobby ranching in Montana.

—JS

Economic studies due soon

for Steese/White Mtns.

The mineral potential of the White Mountains National Recreation Area has been in the news lately as a result of three geological field studies done for the BLM. The studies were part of a larger project BLM is undertaking.

The results of those studies have now been sent to the Bureau of Mines in Washington, D.C., for further evaluation.

The BLM is working on a project to define the mineral potential for the Steese National Conservation Unit and the White Mountains National Recreation Area. As part of this effort, the agency contracted with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys and the U.S. Bureau of Mines to do the geological studies last summer.

Bob Bascle, a geologist in BLM's branch of mineral assessment, is overseeing the whole project.

According to Bascle, the studies indicate there is a 50 percent chance the Lime Peak/Mount Prindle area contains as much tin and silver as moderate-sized tin

districts worldwide, and the White Mountains National Recreation Area as a whole may have some potential for gold, silver, rare earth oxides and other metals.

Bascle said, "There are no other moderate-sized tin districts in the U.S. That's what makes this interesting."

Because less information has been published about the White Mountains area, field studies were concentrated there. State geologists worked the eastern third of the area, U.S.G.S. geologists worked on the remaining two-thirds, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines worked the streams of the entire area. They examined the land forms and collected soil and rock samples for mineral analysis. No core drilling was done.

minerals

Bascle said, "Each agency then identified the resources and made an educated guess as to their size."

BLM has now turned this information over to the Bureau of Mines' Branch of Economic Analysis in D.C. There, mining engineers, geologists, computer scientists, economists and land use planners are working to put the raw data into an economic setting. They are using computer models developed specifically for this project.

Barbara White, who heads the Bureau of Mines' computer analysis, explained how it works.

"First we asked the geologists to synthesize their data to get the specific geological characteristics of the area.

"And now that we have that, we will compare it to other areas in the world that have similar geology. And we'll also look at the characteristics peculiar to Steese/White. But there will be other tin zones and vein gold zones in the world similar to those in the Steese/White Mountains area."

Bascle commented, "The Bureau of Mines study focuses on the chances of getting a mine going in certain areas. We hope they'll be able to outline any specific geographic areas that have significant potential for mineral development and provide scenarios on how mining development could take place in those areas."

This analysis is expected to be completed by the end of December.

The BLM will consider all these studies in an upcoming review of the resource management plan for the recreation area, Bascle said.

The BLM already has a completed management plan for the two national areas which can be updated to incorporate significant new information. If the "in place" deposits are considered economically feasible to mine and transport to market, the BLM may consider beginning the formal process of amending the land use plan.

Such a plan amendment could take up to two years.

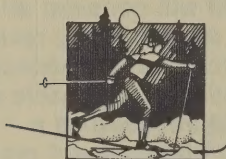
—JS and JGM



U.S. Geological Survey geologist Bob Blodgett looks for fossils during field work in the White Mountains.

The BLM has released a **draft management plan for the Tsirku River drainage** 40 miles west of Haines. This remote glacial valley north of Glacier Bay is noteworthy for spectacular scenery and affords interesting float trips. The plan covers approximately 65,000 acres of land managed by BLM along a 20-mile stretch of the river.

Major issues considered in the plan include the number of permits and leases to be issued to commercial recreation operators, the level of use for the area, and the types of visitor facilities to be allowed. Copies of the plan are available for review at the Haines and Juneau public libraries. For more information contact Dean Littlepage, Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage District Office, 6881 Abbott Loop Road, Anchorage, AK 99508; telephone (907) 267-1232.



Lunchtime Programs

Coming up in the continuing series of Tuesday slide shows on BLM's various activities in Alaska:

December 15, Hazardous Materials in Alaska
January 2, Emergency Search and Rescue

These free brown-bag programs are presented in the Executive Dining Room of the Anchorage Federal Building, 701 C Street, from 11:30 to 12:15. For more information call Sue Wolf at 271-5477.

BLM, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and local miners, is planning a **stream restoration project** at Collinsville, about 70 miles northwest of Anchorage. Here in the early 1980's Mills Creek jumped its natural bank, ran west into nearby Twin Creek, then flowed across the tundra and onto a private airstrip. BLM has already put a berm on Mills Creek with the cooperation of local miners, and now will restore Twin Creek.

What else do you want to know about BLM? We welcome your suggestions and comments. Just call BLM Public Affairs office at 271-5555 or drop us a note.
 —the editor



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